To the Honorable the Commons in Parliament

ASSEMBLED;

The humble Petition and Appeal of John Poyntz alias Morrice and Mary his wife, Leonard Darby, John Harris, and Isabella Smith, Prisoners in several Prisons, upon a Warrant of the Lords, for pretended forgery of the Copy of an Ad of Parliament;

Hat about the year 1594. a Contract being made between one John Morrice, the eldest son of James Morrice of Chipping-Onger of the County of Esex, Esquire, and Katherin Popusz the sole daughter of Gabriel Popusz of Northekenden of the same County, Esquire; The said James Morrice of Onger, and Gabriel Popusz of Northekenden aforesaid, for several valuable contiderations them thereunto moving, Covenanted and agreed to and with each other, to settle their two Estates, (being about the value of 2000. l. per annum) upon the said Ishn and Katherine for life, and upon the Heirs male of his body for life, and in case of such default, then upon Edward the second son of the aforesaid Iames Morrice for life, and to the Heirs male of his body for life, and in case of such default, then upon the right Heirs male of the body of the said Ismus Morrice for ever; provided that by Reason the said Gabriel Popusz had no male issue, that therefore the said Ishn Morrice his Heirs male, Edward Morrice his Heirs male, or the right Heirs male of the said Ismus Morrice should for ever after bear up the name of Popusz; which was assented to, and the said Ishn Morrice entred in the Heraulds books by the name of Pointz alias Marrice; The Heirs male of each line having for the space of sourty Merrice entred in the Hersulds books by the name of Pointz alias Marrice; The Heirs male of each line having, for the space of sourcy years, enjoyed the said Estate accordingly, and born up the name of Pointz according to the said Agreement.

That all the Male Issue of the said John Morrice being dead, the Estate was to descend unto the Male Issue of Edward, the second son of the said James Morrice, and brother to the said John, which Male Issue is the said John Pointz alias Morrice, one of your Petitioners,

who hath been found Heir at Law by leveral Offices, and so acknowledged and accepted of by the Tenants, Farmers of the faid Estate.

who hath been found Herr at Law by leveral Offices, and to acknowledged and accepted of by the Tenants, Farmers of the faid Estate.

That notwithstanding your Petitioners just right to the enjoyment of the said Estate, one Six Adam Littleton, combining with Mr Iohn Brown Clerk of the House of Peers, hath not only forcibly and fraudulently deprived your Petitioner Iohn Popularial Adorrise of the enjoyment of his Right, but also hath falsly and wickedly endeavored not only to destroy the title, but also the credit, may life of your Petitioners, by accusing them before the House of Lords with a pretended forgery of the Copy of an Act of Parliament; where, by M. Browns power and prevalency; they have been Censured, Fined and Imprisoned, some of them without Hearing, and all of them contrary to Law; it being openly proved at the Lords Bar that the Copy of the Act, by them pretended to be forged, was taken out and delivered unto them by one M. Hunt, an under-Clerk, belonging to this Honorable House, being by him examined in M. Browns Office, and attelied under his hand, and afterwards upon demand acknowledged, (though fince this combination with Sir Adam Littleton, denyed.)

That, to clear their innocency herein, the Continued of the Court of Wards, and atteffed of M. Audley, who was by M. Brown threatned with the cous of mines and setting the fame.

That not only all your Petitioners Writings, concerning the Premises, but also several Books of Accompts were by M. Brown forcibly seized, and are detained to this day; and several Records taken out of the Treasuries, and condemned as so many forged Records, in purpose to destroy the Title of your Petitioners.

That they conceive it to be contrary to Law and Equity that seereds (hould be removed from their respective Treasuries, or be condemned as torged, upon the bare suggestion of M. Brown, without witness or proof thereof made legally before a Court of Indicature; or that any person or persons should be imprisoned and fined for a supposed Crime, and yet never called to answer, or suffered to make his or their lawful defence.

That they have been Prisoners, by colour of the Lords Order, neer twenty moneths, although the Judges have delivered their opinions that they might be released.

That though they have been wanting in no endeavor to clear their innocency, and obtain their Freedoms, yet hath M. Brown by his power prevented them, and by several flanderous suggestions caused such persons as appeared in their behalf to be imprisoned by vertue of Warrants, either from the Lords, or some Justice of Peace, or false actions brought upon them for pretended words spoken against him, by which means he hath absolutely disabled Your Petitioners, either to cleer themselves of his scandal, or obtain their liberty.

The Permisse considered, may in place Your Houses.

- nim, by which means he hath absolutely disabled Your Petitioners, either to cleer themselves of his secondal, or obtain their liberty.

 The Premises considered; may it please Your Honors,

 That forasimuch as by the Law of the Kingdom Your Petitioners ought to have been tryed for all supposed crimes, by a Judg, sworn to proceed in an ordinary Court of Justice, according to Law, and a Jury of their equals sworn to proceed according evidence: The Lords having no legal power to take the Cognizance of the crimes of Commoners, much less to sentence, sine, and imprison them at their pleasures, upon the malicious suggestions of their Clerk, without the proof of any crime by them committed, or without hearing. And forasmuch as M. John Brown (by colour of the said scandal cast upon the said some Popula, alias Morrice, Sec.) hath removed, and caused to be removed, several Records out of their several Treasuries, thereby to darken and destroy the citle of Your Petitioner; all which proceedings of his, by pretence of what authority society, is contrary to Law, neither the Copy of the A2 of Parliament, nor any other Records being yet proved, forged, or any of Your Petitioners guilty of forgery: and for that it is altogether impossible for Your Petitioners to obtain either their Freedom or lustice, being opposed by so potent an adversary, who hath alterady improved his utmost interest to destroy them by a perishing imprisonment, unless Your Honors in Your patty take them into rimely consideration, and as an evidence of Your love to lustice, speedily enterpose in their behalf by granting their earnest desires, which are as followeth.

 That Your Heners will be pleased to discharge them of their Fines and its prisonment, by vertue of the Law Control of their sections.
- their earnest desires, which are as followeth.

 That Tour Henors will be pleased to discharge them of their Fines and insprisoment, by vertue of the Lords Order.

 That for the supposed crime of forgery charged upon Your Petitioners, they may be less unto the Law, either to be acquitted or condemned.

 That antil the said Copy of an AR and other Records be proved forged, they may be returned back unto the several Offices from whence they mere taken, and the sentences reversed that have passed for the nulling of them.

 That M. Brown may be ordered to return all such writings and books of Accompt so be bath at any time taken from Your Petitioners.

 That all differences in relation to the title and interest in the said estate being matter of Law, may be referred unto a tryst at Law.

 That Tour Honors will be pleased to cause M. Hunt, M. Riley, M. Audley, Sec. to be Examined touching the delivery of the Coppies of the said AR and Records, where by Tour Honors may be truly insured, and Your Petitioners innocency cleared.

 And your Petitioners shall pray. Sec.

And your Petirioners shall pray, &cc.

To the Honorabic the Commons in Parliament

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